Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended): A device for sampling body fluid, comprising:

a) a main body defining a capillary channel;

b) a lancet disposed within said capillary channel and defining an annular space between said lancet and said main body;

c) wherein said lancet is selectively advancable and retractable; wherein said capillary channel is dimensioned to draw a body fluid into said annular space through capillary action;

~~comprising~~ at least one testing element in communication with said annular space;

wherein said testing element is a test strip; and

wherein said test strip is radially mounted around said lancet.

6-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended): A device for sampling body fluid, comprising:

a) a main body defining a capillary channel;

b) a lancet disposed within said capillary channel and defining an annular space between said lancet and said main body;

c) wherein said lancet is selectively advancable and retractable; wherein said capillary channel is dimensioned to draw a body fluid into said annular space through capillary action;

~~further comprising~~ at least one testing element in communication with said annular space;

~~further comprising~~ biasing means to selectively retract said lancet;

wherein said biasing means is a spring operable to provide relative movement between said lancet and said main body; and

wherein said spring is mounted within said capillary channel between a bearing surface on said main body and a bearing surface on said lancet.

14. (Original): The device of claim 13 wherein said spring comprises a bio-compatible material.

15-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously amended): A system for sampling and testing a body fluid, comprising:

a) a main body defining a capillary channel;

b) a lancet disposed within said capillary channel and defining an annular space between said lancet and said main body;

c) wherein said lancet is selectively advancable and retractable;

d) wherein said capillary channel is dimensioned to draw a body fluid into said annular space through capillary action; and,

e) a testing means for testing the body fluid drawn into said annular space.

23. (Original): The system of claim 22 wherein said testing means comprises at least one test element in communication with said annular space.

24. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 22 wherein said testing means comprises analysis equipment operable to test the body fluid in said annular space.

25. (Currently Amended, Withdrawn): The system of claim ~~25~~ 24 wherein said testing means further comprises electrochemical sensors mounted within said annular space and in communication with said analysis equipment.

26. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 24 wherein said main body is placed in said analysis equipment after a body fluid sample is collected.

27. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 26 wherein said testing device tests the body fluid using optical transmittance, reflectance or flourescence.

28. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 26 wherein said testing device tests the body fluid using electrochemical sensors situated to communicate with said annular space.

29-31. (Cancelled).

32. (Previously amended): A method of obtaining a fluid sample from the body of a person, comprising the steps of:

a) placing an apparatus having a defined capillary channel and a lancet disposed in said capillary channel that together define a capillary space adjacent tissue at a desired sample location;

b) advancing the lancet disposed within said capillary channel so that said lancet incises tissue at an incision point in the desired sample location;

c) retracting said lancet into said capillary channel; and,

d) acquiring body fluid expressed from the body at the incision point into said capillary space through capillary action.

33. (Original): The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of testing the acquired body fluid while the fluid is contained in said capillary channel.

34. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of transferring the fluid from said capillary channel to a testing element and thereafter testing the fluid.

35. (Original): The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of testing the acquired body fluid with testing means communicating with said capillary channel.

36. (Original): The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of testing the acquired body fluid for a blood glucose level.

37-43. (Cancelled).

44. (Previously added): A body fluid sampling device, comprising:

a body;

a lancet slidably received in the body to lance an incision in skin, wherein the lancet and the body define a capillary space that is sized to draw the body fluid via capillary action; and

a test means disposed in the capillary space to test the body fluid drawn by the capillary space.

45. (New): The system of claim 22, further comprising a holder holding said testing means in said annular space.

46. (New): The system of claim 45, wherein said holder includes an opening defined in said main body.

47. (New): The system of claim 22, further comprising a retraction mechanism configured to retract said lancet.

48. (New): The system of claim 47, wherein said retraction mechanism includes a spring disposed in said annular space.

49. (New): The system of claim 22, wherein said annular space is between 10 and 500 μm.

50. (New): The system of claim 22, wherein said annular space is between 20 and 200 μm to optimize fill time.

51. (New): The system of claim 22, wherein said lancet is hydrophilic.

52. (New): The system of claim 51, wherein said lancet is coated with a hydrophilic material.

53. (New): The system of claim 22, wherein:

said main body has an interior surface defining said capillary channel; and

said interior surface is hydrophilic.

54. (New): The method of claim 33, wherein said testing the acquired body fluid includes optically testing the acquired body fluid.

55. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the test means includes a test strip.

56. (New): The device of claim 44, further comprising a holder holding the test means in the capillary space.

57. (New): The device of claim 56, wherein the holder includes an opening defined in the body.

58. (New): The device of claim 44, further comprising a retraction mechanism configured to retract the lancet.

59. (New): The device of claim 58, wherein the retraction mechanism includes a spring surrounding the lancet.

60. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the capillary space is sized between 10 and 500 μm.

61. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the capillary space is sized between 20 and 200 μm.

62. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the lancet is hydrophilic.

63. (New): The device of claim 62, wherein the lancet is coated with a hydrophilic material.

64. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the body is hydrophilic.

65. (New): The device of claim 64, wherein the body is coated with a hydrophilic material around the capillary space.

66. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the body has a generally cylindrical shape.

67. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the lancet has a generally cylindrical shape.

68. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the body is made of a bio-compatible plastic.

69. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the test means is optically reactive.

70. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein at least a portion of the body adjacent the test means is transparent.

71. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the body is transparent.

72. (New): The device of claim 44, wherein the lancet is adapted to advance from the body a distance between approximately 0.05 mm and 3 mm.

73. (New, Withdrawn): The device of claim 44, further comprising a sealing member enclosing an end of the capillary space.

74. (New, Withdrawn): The device of claim 73, wherein the sealing member includes a safety cap covering the lancet.

75. (New, Withdrawn): The device of claim 44, the test means includes a membrane.

76. (New, Withdrawn): The device of claim 44, wherein the test means includes two or more testing elements.

77. (New, Withdrawn): The device of claim 44, wherein the test means includes one or more electrochemical sensors disposed within the capillary space.